

# WIL MARA'S AUTHOR VISITS

"Wil gave us the best author visit we've ever had. The kids loved him and they learned so much."

*Carol Smallwood, Media Specialist  
Fairbanks, AK*

Veteran author Wil Mara has visited more than 200 schools during his 35-year writing career. His presentations are both entertaining and educational, conforming to curriculum standards while engaging students with lively interaction.

## MAIN FEATURES

- All visits are fully customizable to your school's requirements, e.g., time of day, group size, number of sessions, and so on.
- Many different presentations to choose from, depending on your students' needs and grade level. Two of the most popular are the 'Seven Tips to Better Communication' and the creative-writing seminar.
- There is also a seminar specifically for media specialists based on Wil's ongoing 'Myth of the Reluctant Reader' lecture series, which is now entering its second decade.
- Spirited inclusive Q&A discussions with your students, who are a critical part of each presentation.
- Two visit options---in-person and via video. Please note that the video appearances, while half the price of the live visits, offer all the same content.
- Five of Wil's current books will be donated to your school's collection.
- Wil's books are available to your students at discounts even lower than those offered on Amazon, and all with free bonus items like posters and bookmarks that aren't available anywhere else.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WIL DIRECTLY AT [WIL@WILMARA.COM](mailto:WIL@WILMARA.COM).**

"In the weeks following Wil's visit, many students have been inspired to become writers and are eagerly sharing their own stories!"

*Valerie Munro, Media Specialist  
Pequannock, NJ*



School visit April 2018



School visit October 2019



Introducing Jacqueline Woodson  
at the College of New Jersey



Promoting *The Gemini Virus* on  
*The Late Show* with David Letterman



With Henry Winkler  
on the set of *Medical Police*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"I recommend that you introduce your students to Wil's 'Twisted' series. They'll be at the shelves buzzing around them.."

Betty Turock

President Emeritus, American Library Association



After receiving the NJASL Author of the Year Award (2020)



At the New Jersey Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony  
Paramount Theater  
Asbury Park, 2017



Official author photo 2021 with beard grown during Covid lockdown (and later shaved off because everyone hated it)

Wil Mara has been a published author for 35 years and has more than 300 books to his credit. He is the only living author with at least one book from a major publisher in all ten of the Dewey Decimal categories. He has written both fiction and nonfiction, for children and adults. His books have won multiple awards, reached bestseller lists (e.g., his 2013 novel *Frame 232*, reached the *NYT* list and the # 1 spot on Amazon.com while also winning the Lime Award for Excellence in Fiction), earned excellent reviews, and been translated into more than a dozen languages. 2005's *Wave* won the New Jersey Notable Book Award, and 2012's *The Gemini Virus* remained on Amazon's list of 'Ten Bestseller Medical Thrillers' for 14 consecutive weeks. His 2006 football novel *The Draft* was the basis for the 2014 feature film *Draft Day* starring Kevin Costner. And his 2017 novel *Fallout* was nominated for the Edgar Award for Novel of the Year. He also released a short suspense novel about the coronavirus, *Covid Patient Zero*, in 2020.

He started in children's fiction by ghostwriting five of the popular 'Boxcar Children' mysteries. In 2019, Rosen Publishing released the first of his bestselling 'Twisted' books. These stories have been described as "*Twilight Zones* for kids" and became an instant hit with middle-grade readers, including the particularly challenging reluctant / hi-lo kids. The second book in the 'Twisted' series, *House of a Million Rooms*, was chosen as a Main Selection title by the Junior Library Guild and also received the JLG's Gold Standard Award. The 'Twisted' stories are now being developed for television through an Emmy Award-winning production company in Los Angeles, and new titles are being released every year. Wil is also the author of the popular 'Izzy Jeen the Big-Mouth Queen' series for early chapter book readers, and Izzy is currently being developed for television as well.

Wil was also an editor, administrator, and executive inside the industry for over 20 years, working for such houses as Scholastic, McGraw-Hill, Macmillan, and Prentice-Hall until turning to fulltime writing in 2005. He is an associate member of the NJASL and an executive member of the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Center for the Book, which is an affiliate of the US Library of Congress. He is also a charter member of the Literacy Alliance of New Jersey, the host of the 'Voice of American Libraries' podcast, and a recipient of the Literary Lion Award, whose past winners include Gus Friedrich, Dean Emeritus of Rutgers University, and Joyce Carol Oates, National Book Award winner and Pulitzer Prize finalist. And in 2020, the New Jersey Association of School Librarians chose him as their Author of the Year.

"Wil Mara's 'Twisted' series is perfect for my students who are not big on reading. They relate particularly well to reluctant middle-grade readers. And the stories have good morals included, too!"

Lindy Schaefer, Media Specialist  
Modesto, CA